

Department of Permitting and Environmental Review

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## News Release

Date: July 2, 2015 Contact: Chris Ricketts, King County Fire Marshal 206-477-0357, <a href="mailto:chris.ricketts@kingcounty.gov">chris.ricketts@kingcounty.gov</a>

## Fire Marshal reminds public that personal fireworks are banned in all King County Parks

As conditions remain exceptionally dry this season, fire hazards have increased and temperatures continue to rise the King County Fire Marshal has issued a reminder that fireworks are banned in all King County Parks.

By <u>King County Code</u>, fireworks are not allowed on any King County Parks properties, including such popular locations as Marymoor Park, Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, Steve Cox Memorial Park in White Center, Skyway Park in Skyway, and all other parks properties, except for authorized fireworks displays – such as the City of Carnation's annual <u>Great Carnation 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration</u> at Tolt-MacDonald Park.

According to a study by the National Wildfire Protection Association most of the fires started by fireworks involved grass, brush and other vegetation. The <u>King</u> <u>County Forestry Program</u> offers free assistance to residents of rural forested areas to assess their risk from wildfire and develop and implement community wildfire safety plans.

More than 1,600 King County households participate in the <u>Firewise</u> program, which is modeled after the national Firewise program to assist in the prevention of the loss of lives and property while encouraging forest stewardship among landowners. Nine communities along the suburban/rural interface in King County have completed community wildfire protection plans.

Last year in King County, fire agencies responded to nearly 200 fire calls with 82 of them related to fireworks, as reported in the 2014 Washington State Fire Marshal report. King County fire agencies are urging residents to attend one of the many professional public fireworks displays during the Fourth of July weekend. The Washington State Fireworks has compiled a <u>list of public firework events by city</u>.

While it is not advisable to light fireworks, the Fire Marshal urges following the three B's: Be Prepared - before lighting any firework; Be Safe - when fireworks are being lit; and Be Responsible - after fireworks are done.

For more information, visit the King County Department of Permitting and Environmental Review <u>Fire Marshal website</u> or the Washington State Patrol's <u>fireworks website</u>.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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